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BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1972



1972

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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Mayor:

Councillor D. J. Pullen

Deputy Mayor:

Alderman T. Lambourne

Public Health Committee:

(Full Council)

Chairman Alderman T. Lambourne

Alderman H. E. Cornwall.

" Mrs. E. D. Embleton.

" A. G. F. Marriot.

Coun. H. J. Adams.

" D. Crossland.

" W. E. Davis.

" D. A. T. Foote.

Coun. J. A. B. Gilchrist.

" N. G. Humphrey.

" Mrs. E. G. Hussey.

" Miss M. MacManus.

" A. R. Morgan.

" J. T. Roberts.

" K. C. Vernon.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. Lavis, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., (The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

S. Hetherington, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Chief Health Inspector:

R. Taylor, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Health Inspector:

N. Senior, M.S.I.A.

Secretary:

Mrs. A. Howard.

Telephone: Buckingham 2295





Castle House,  
West Street,  
Buckingham.

June, 1973.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1972.

The figures in the vital statistics need no comments other than to say that they are well within national standards. The number of infectious diseases notified is now very small and the majority that occur are not serious. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning, though isolated cases have occurred, and no doubt many incidents of this nature are never brought to our notice. During the last two weeks in December, an influenza epidemic built up, but declined fairly rapidly during early January.

#### Family Planning.

My plea, in previous reports, for an adequate family planning service now seems to be bearing fruit. Parliament is actively engaged in forming legislation for this (at the time of writing this report), and in the meantime the County Council will be starting a comprehensive service in the coming year. I anticipate expanding the existing service at present supplied by the Family Planning Association.

#### Health Education.

The growing interest in health education by schools continues to demand more help in planning and presentation of courses in addition to supplying information and visual aid material to a number of schools. Youth clubs have also been asked for, and received assistance in discussion groups on health education topics in co-operation with youth leaders.

#### Health Centre.

I am pleased to report that it now seems likely that a health centre can be established in the Borough. Agreement between the necessary parties has been reached in principle and in the coming year detailed discussions will be held so that construction can start.

#### Drug Abuse.

There appears to be no problem of hard drug addiction in the area at present. However, the use of soft drugs - in particular cannabis - appears



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West Street,  
Birmingham.

June, 1973.

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Wellcome Library

My plea, in regard to the Family Planning service now seems to be that the service should be expanded in the future. Legislation for this (at the time of writing this report), and in the meantime the County Council will be expanding the service in the coming year. I anticipate expanding the service in the future.

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<https://archive.org/details/b28961079>

to be not uncommon in certain groups. Individuals, who have close contact with the young, meet at regular intervals to inform themselves of the current picture, and discuss ways and means to combat drug abuse. Many youths and young adults take these drugs by way of experiment and fortunately do not persist with their use for long. We must view with apprehension increased acceptance of the view that cannabis is a substance that should be available to all. People - especially adolescents - who find the need to take these drugs (for no medical reason) require a better relationship with their parents or close friends, and guidance and moral support during periods of crises. It is sad (but incredibly true) that many parents never hold conversations with their children, for example. Others might need to examine their way of life to try and reason why they are unable to gain sufficient satisfaction to such an extent that they have to turn to chemical substances to create a distorted picture of themselves and the world. The real tragedy lies in the fact that greater affluence does not improve the outlook. As long as we assume that the answer to our frustrations, or stresses in marriage and work, is to be found in the latest pill for headaches, indigestion, insomnia or whatever, so will our children grow up to think likewise. Our attitude to the common and legally available drugs is too casual and children notice this.

#### Staff.

Expansion of the Borough and reorganisation of Local Government has increased the burden on officers to an extent that normal public health work will suffer if due attention is not given to this side of the work by the new district authority. It will be important that an adequate inspectorate is based in this area to fulfil the needs of the service.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. Lavis.







# Vital Statistics.

								<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367	5,367
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,180	5,200
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,865	1,928
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260,448	267,099
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81.50	97.50
Sum represented by a New Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,514	£2,600

## BIRTHS:

	M	F		
Legitimate	42	36	68	78
Illegitimate	-	-	5	-
Birth rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)			15.1	16.2
" " " " " (England and Wales)			16.0	14.8
Still Births			Nil	Nil

## DEATHS:

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	9.8	9.3
" " " " " (England and Wales)	11.6	12.1

## INFANT MORTALITY:

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	14 (one death)	13
England and Wales	18	17

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

### Notified Cases:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Infectious Hepatitis	1	-





BUCKINGHAM BOROUGH.

Number of Persons under age of 16  
completing Primary Courses during 1972.

<u>Type of Vaccine</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968-65</u>	<u>Others under age of 16</u>	<u>Total</u>
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PERTUSSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHTHERIA/ TETANUS	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TETANUS	-	-	-	-	1	47	48
TRIPLE	8	71	4	-	-	2	85
SABIN POLIO	5	71	4	-	1	-	81
MEASLES	-	58	14	-	1	-	73
RUBELLA	-	-	-	-	-	72	72

Number of Persons under age of 16  
completing Booster courses during 1972.

<u>Type of Vaccine</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968-65</u>	<u>Others under age of 16</u>	<u>Total</u>
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PERTUSSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHTHERIA/ TETANUS	-	-	-	-	75	5	80
TETANUS	-	-	-	-	5	134	139
TRIPLE	-	2	1	-	10	2	15
SABIN POLIO	-	2	1	-	14	-	17
MEASLES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUBELLA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-





PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:1972

							M	F	T
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...			1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	...			-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...			2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...			-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	...			1	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Mental Disorders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other diseases of Nervous System			...	...	...		1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	...	...		1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...		6	3	9
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...		1	2	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...		6	2	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...		-	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...		1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System			...	...	...		1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...		-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...		1	-	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	...	...		1	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES							28	19	47





## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE SERVICE: Administered by Bucks County Council from Aylesbury Station, North Bucks Station and Bletchley, with a day time base at Buckingham.

HOSPITALS: Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, Patients are treated at Buckingham, Aylesbury and Oxford. Certain Outpatient facilities are available in Buckingham.

DISTRICT NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH VISITORS: Verney Close, (Tel. 3395)

CHILD HEALTH CLINIC: Held in the Congregational Chapel Hall.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC: Whalley Drive, Bletchley. Director: Dr. M. Lindsay.

CONTRACEPTION ADVICE: Clinics are held at Whalley Drive and Fern Grove Health Centre, Bletchley by the Family Planning Association (by appointment), and at Meacham Clinic, Wolverton. For appointments Tel: Bletchley 2285.

CYTOLOGY CLINICS: Through family doctors or at Verney Close (appointments Tel: Bletchley 4701).

DENTAL CLINICS: Verney Close. Treatment offered to children and expectant mothers. The dentist visits schools regularly.

HEALTH EDUCATION: Area Organiser - Mr. T. Watson at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE: Administered from Area Health Office, This includes arrangements for the examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act, ascertainment of handicapped and advising appropriate treatment, vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus, rubella and tuberculosis is carried out.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - 226, Queensway, Bletchley.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT: (Former Welfare, Mental Health, Home Helps, Children's Department, etc.) Area Officer - Mr. P.K. Smith, Tel: Bletchley 4701.





## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### 1. WATER.

The supply which is still under Borough Council control was satisfactory during the year. Some complaints relating to discolour were received during the year and mains flushing was carried out on an extended basis.

Lack of rainfall towards the end of 1972 is causing some concern over the whole field of supply though Buckingham appears to have a useful surplus for the present population.

The East Anglian Water Authority will be responsible for supplies to the area after the 1st April 1974 and a Provisional Management Unit will be formed consisting of the Bucks Water Board and Borough areas.

Consideration is being given to the filtration of supplies from the Maids Moreton source.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford carry out bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and during the year 26 such examinations were carried out.

Rainfall figures are recorded daily at Gawcott and submitted to the River Authority.

### FLUORIDATION

Monitoring of both our water sources was carried out during the year to ascertain the presence and quantity of natural fluoride and in respect of the Gawcott source the natural content fluctuated between 0.3 ppm and 1.3 ppm, and the Maids Moreton supply again fluctuated from Nil ppm to 0.6 ppm.

### NEW DEVELOPMENT

Housing development at Page Hill (320 Houses) is actively progressing and an estate of 72 houses is nearing completion in Moreton Road.

It is anticipated that a start will be made on Development Company land in 1973 a total number of 470 houses with school buildings is programmed for its first site.

Up to the present time mainlaying has been carried out by our own staff, the acceleration of a development programme may make it necessary to employ contractors for this work in 1973.



Metered supplies to industry and commerce accounted for 31,166,255 gallons during the year.

Average consumption per head per day which includes the above figure was 46 gallons.

Total quantity of water supplied during the year was 87,445,970 gallons, a decrease since last year of 8,014,030 gallons.

Peak daily consumption recorded was 250,000 gallons.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BOREHOLE WATER - GAWCOTT.

Appearance.....Clear, with yellow-brown  
flocculent suspension and  
brown coating on bottle sides.  
Odour.....Fresh.  
Flavour.....Flat and slightly astringent.

Results in parts per million:

Dissolved Solids.....	606.40
Insoluble matter.....	83.44
Free and Saline Ammonia (as N).....	NIL
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N).....	NIL
Nitrites (as N).....	NIL
Nitrates (as N).....	0.04
Chlorion.....	52.40
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate.....	0.49
Biochemical Oxygen Demand.....	0.39
Total Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$ .....	316.00
Total Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ .....	326.00
Lead (Pb).....	Less than 0.01
Copper (Cu).....	0.12





## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER FROM MILLS MORETON FOUNDRY STATION

Appearance.....Clear and bright  
with pale buff deposit  
on bottle walls.  
Odour.....Fresh.  
Flavour.....Flat.

### Results in parts per million:

Dissolved Solids.....	751.20
Insoluble Matter.....	40.97
Free and Saline Ammonia (as N).....	0.21
Albuminoid Ammonia (asN).....	NIL
Nitrites (as N).....	NIL
Nitrates (as N).....	0.32
Chlorion.....	85.20
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate.....	0.69
Biochemical Oxygen Demand.....	1.08
Total Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$ .....	322.00
Total Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ .....	274.00
Lead (Pb).....	Less than 0.01
Copper (Cu).....	0.09

## 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Difficulty has been experienced during the year in maintaining effluent standards at the Gawcott disposal works. Alternative methods of dealing with this problem are being actively considered by the Council and improvements should be in operation in 1973.

It is anticipated that a start on the new Bourton disposal works will be made in June 1973 and will include the laying of gravity sewers and pumping mains.





### 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL

The weekly house-to-house back-door collection continues and no complaints of a serious nature have been sustained.

Several meetings have been held between technical officers of constituent authorities on the proposed collection service after April 1974.

The service in Buckingham can be expected to continue much as at present with an extension of the paper or plastic sack containers.

A unification of types of vehicle will obviously be one of the aims of reorganisation.

It is not yet clear whether the refuse collection service will be administered by a Public Health Department or a Technical Services Department, my own view is that this service should be considered a Public Health function - a view shared by a majority of the officers concerned.

The disposal of refuse is still taking place at the Calvert pit owned by the London Brick Company leased by Aylesbury Borough Council.

Two vehicles are in service at the present time, one large compression vehicle is adequate to deal with a normal days collection. The second vehicle is used for special collections and to catch up on any back log after the usual public holidays.

### 4. SWIMMING POOL.

Again the pool enjoyed good support and the takings were as follows:-

Season Ticket sales produced	£286.90
Gate receipts produced	£721.73
Refreshment Sales	£372.03
Schools Contribution	£308.00
Swimming Club	£60.00

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£1748.66

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When reporting last year it was shown that the schools contribution for the year was £534.00 whereas in fact, due to an accounting error which had not been rectified when the last report was compiled, this figure should have read £270.00, the total therefore for 1971 being £1949.20, which shows a drop of



£200 in the 1972 figure, and was probably attributable to the poor weather at the latter part of the season when takings dropped considerably.

## 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported.

43 outworkers from the Borough of Buckingham were notified to the Council during 1972.

## THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

During the year 74 premises were registered. 90 visits were made to registered premises, but no conditions were found which merited prosecution. Minor infringements were dealt with informally quite successfully.

The number of persons employed at registered premises were:-

Males 191.

Females 305.

## THE FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
i Non-Mechanical Factories Sec. 1-6	5	12	Nil	Nil
ii Mechanical Factories Sec. 7	39	24	Nil	Nil
iii Other Premises Sec. 7	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	51	36	Nil	Nil





CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED ANDCONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	1092	-	6	2584	3345	Nil
Number Inspected	1092	-	6	2584	3345	Nil
Whole carcasses excluding Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	5	-	2	Nil	6	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	56	-	Nil	14	70	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	5.58	-	30	0.54	2.27	Nil
Tuberculosis. Some part or organ.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ALSO INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED DURING 1972.

56 lbs. Streaky Bacon.  
 439 items of defrosted goods from Woolworths.  
 280 items of defrosted goods from Old Gaol Grill after fire.  
 2 Turkeys.  
 3 Chickens.  
 1½ Stone Plaice Fillets.  
 8 lbs. Imported Mutton.  
 23 Tins Miscellaneous Food.





## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The mortuary situated in the Council Yard in the High Street is used by the two local authorities mainly in connection with fatal road casualties, on a decreasing scale.

## 7. HOUSING.

Despite an application for planning approval being made to erect old peoples units on a site in Buckingham, no Council housing was carried out during 1972. However 67 private houses were completed during the year and 92 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Standard improvements to 55 houses in Westfields and Bath Lane Terrace were completed during the year; and standard improvements to 35 houses in Bourtonville were commenced during the year.

## 8. REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

### NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	77			
Nuisances found as a result of inspection	...	...	52				
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	50	
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Visits to houses and premises under PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 and 1961 and FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85



Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 81 and falling into the following categories:-

Cafes and Restuarants	...	...	...	...	6
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Stalls	...	...	...	...	16
Canteens	...	...	...	...	11
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	...	3

The number of premises registered under Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act is 17 and all such premises are regularly inspected.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Grants approved by the Borough Council for 1972 were as follows:-

(a)		<u>Amount</u>
	Standard Grants	
	Nos. 5	
	S.G. 79	£405.00
	81	£155.00
	82	£105.00
	83	£148.00
	84	£450.00
		<hr/>
	Total	£1263.00
		<hr/>

(b)		
	Discretionary Grants	
	Nos. 12	
	I.G. 27	£1000.00
	29	£828.00
	30	£807.00
	31	£1000.00
	32	£857.00
	33	£1000.00
	34	£1000.00
	35	£300.00
	37	£870.00
	38	£800.00
	39	£1000.00
	40	£1000.00
		<hr/>
	Total	£10,462.00
		<hr/>

(c) Special Grants. (Houses in multiple occupation) - None.





PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	26
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	32

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	24
Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	...	20
Number of premises treated for mice	...	...	...	4
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	...	28
Actual rats' bodies found	...	...	...	18
Visits for inspection and survey	...	...	...	30
Visits for baiting and exterminations	...	...	...	72

RENNIE TAYLOR,

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

